them a chance of rising. He also proposed the institution of an enquiry into the causes of the comparatively low representation of the Christians in the public service with a view to adopt the necessary measures for the entertainment of the members of his community more largely and for greater encouragement to those Christians already employed in the service.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

155. Encouragement to the Malayala Brahmins in the matter of education and their entertainment in the State service.

Mr. Narayanar Janardanar (Member, Jenmi, Trivandrum Division) said that the backwardness of his community in point of education was well known. Only very few men in the community recognised the awkwardness of the situation. The percentage of members of his community who knew the English language was infinitely small. It was with a view to remedy the above defect that the Government sanctioned a special school for the Malayala Brahmins. The highest class in the school was the Third Form. The students who passed the Third Form had generally to discontinue their studies. Their education was incomplete and they became useless in after-life. The students who had an aptitude for learning were not sufficiently encouraged by their parents and guardians. The Member prayed that the Government might view the cases of such students sympathetically and encourage them by granting scholarships. He also suggested that education be made compulsory, at least in so far as the Malayala Brahmin community was concerned.

Dewan.—What sort of education, do you consider should be made compulsory?

Member.—I ask that English education be made compulsory in our community.

Dewan.—Action has not been taken anywhere to make English education compulsory. In some countries, compulsory education has been introduced in respect of the Vernaculars of those places. I fear it will not be feasible to make English education compulsory.

The Member, continuing, said that, for the present, the Government should take steps to spread English education amongst his community by granting fee concessions and scholarships and that the question of making English education compulsory might be considered later on.

The Member stated that the percentage of members of his community in the Government service was very small and that the Government were not showing any special consideration to the community. A Malayala Brahmin graduate who applied for a teacher's place in the Special School was not given that place. There were also other instances in which applications from qualified Malayala Brahmins were not given any consideration. The Member, therefore, prayed that special encouragement be given to qualified persons from his community, at least for some time, in the matter of appointments in the State service.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

156. Ezhavas and Government Service.

Mr. C. O. Madhavan B. A. & B. L. (Member, Nominated) said that the subject began to be represented at the Assembly from its very first session and that the representation invariably met with the sympathetic consideration of the Government. It was only in 1083, however, that the Government laid it down as a principle that Ezhavas should be given preference in the matter of Government appointments. Almost all the Government appointments now held by Ezhavas were given to them subsequent to that time. It was gratifying to note that the present Government were not only adopting the very same policy but had even gone a step further in having issued an order to all Heads of Departments to give special consideration to Ezhava applicants for Government appointments. The Member pointed out that such orders were very seldom honored in their observance and requested that the Government might be pleased to devise means to ascertain how far their orders

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relating to Ezhavas and Government service were being obeyed by the authorities concerned. The Member suggested the collection of statistics at intervals, showing the number of new appointments and the number of qualified Ezhava applicants would be an effective means of enforcing the Government order. If it was granted that the claim of the Ezhavas was equal to that of any other community, they should have equal opportunities to enter Government service. Considering the educational backwardness of the community, the number of qualified hands in other communities and the keen competition for Government appointments, equal opportunities meant some special facilities for Ezhavas at least for some time.

Another important point in favour of preferential treatment for Ezhavas would be clear from an enquiry into the causes of their educationally backward condition. The causes were twofold. It was due partly to the refusal, till a decade or two ago, of admission to Ezhava boys in almost all the educational institutions of the State and partly to the refusal of Government appointments to them. The refusal of Government appointments to the community at a time when Public Service was looked upon as the ultimate object of all education had a deadly effect on the spread of education among the Ezhavas. Now that almost all the schools in the State were open to Ezhavas and the objections to their appointments in most of the departments of the Public Service were removed, the number of Ezhavas qualified for Government service might also steadily increase. But till they had made at least some approach towards the advanced communities in the State, it was necessary that special encouragement should be shown to them. In praying for special consideration for Ezhavas in the matter of Government appointments, the Member did not want the Government to sacrifice the efficiency of the public service by appointing any one to any post for which he did not possess the required qualification. His prayer was that when, for any post, there was an Ezhava applicant possessing the minimum qualification prescribed for that post and there were other applicants belonging to the more advanced communities possessing higher qualifications, that post should be given to the Ezhava applicant. If that principle was not strictly adhered to, there was very little chance for Ezhavas to enter Government service in the near future.

In the Member's opinion, the Government service was not very attractive to able-bodied and qualified young men able to serve their country and community. Besides, the prospect for those who entered service was gloomy. Nevertheless, he prayed for the admission of Ezhavas into the fold, firstly on account of the fact that the common people looked upon Government service with pride, and, secondly, because the presence, in an out-of-the-way place, of a Government servant awakened the moral consciousness and elevated the spirit of the community in the locality in a way which nothing else could. For those reasons, the Member prayed that the Government might be pleased to keep up their sympathetic attitude towards the aspirations of the Ezhavas in the matter of Government appointments and to see that that sympathy took tangible shape for the good of the community.

Mr. K. G. Madhavan (Member, Nominated) said that the Heads of Departments were not carrying out the orders of the Government in regard to giving appointments to qualified Ezhava applicants. The Ezhava community formed one important section of the population and their demand for a share in the administration of the country was only reasonable. There was no Ezhava member in the Legislative Council. The Member prayed that an Ezhava member might be appointed in the Council before the proposed Bill relating to succession and inheritance amongst the Ezhavas was taken up for consideration.

It was gratifying to note that, in response to the repeated prayers of the members of the community, the Government were pleased to appoint two Ezhavas in the Secretariat. But that was not sufficient. There were other qualified applicants also whose claims should be sympathetically considered by the Government. The Heads of Departments were sure to show better consideration to Ezhava applicants, if the Government sufficiently recognised their claims.

Recently, there were certain vacancies in the High Court in the clerical staff. Some of the qualified Ezhava applicants who applied for some posts were disappointed.

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The number of Ezhavas in the Judicial Department was very inappreciable. It should be made a rule that Ezhavas should be preferred for all appointments on Rs. 40 and above. The Member requested that the present vacancy of the Librarian's post in the Public Library might be given to the Ezhava graduate who applied for the same. There were several qualified men in the community and they found it very difficult to get appointments in the Education Department. The Police, Registration, Excise, and Forest Departments were also inadequately represented by Ezhava employees. An Ezhava graduate applied for a Sub-Inspector's place in the Police Department. Another man who was trained in Mysore applied for a Head Constable's place in the Police department. He was physically fit for the department. It was regrettable that both the above men were not appointed in the department. The recruits were also not selected in sufficient numbers in the Police Department from Ezhavas. Even the Ezhava employees who were working in the Department to the satisfaction of their superiors were not given sufficient encouragement. The Director of Registration did not confer many appointments on Ezhava applicants, although he was appointing people from other advanced communities in large numbers.

Regarding the Excise Department, the Member said that the Ezhavas had a special claim on that department but that the number of persons appointed from the community in that department was not at all adequate. There were several peons and clerks in the Judicial Department and a good number of places of *pakuthi* Accountants in the State. The Member pointed out that the applications from Ezhavas for the above places were not favourably considered by the authorities concerned. The situation was not much better in the Medical Department also. The educated girls from the community were not appointed as school mistresses. There were many Ezhavas who had passed the Sub-Overseers' Test. They also did not find it easy to get admission in the P. W. Department. The Member, therefore, prayed that the Government might be pleased to note the apathy shown by Heads of Departments in the matter of appointing Ezhava applicants and order wider entertainment of Ezhava applicants in all ranks of the Public Service.

Mr. S. Padmanabha Panikkar (Member, Nominated) also spoke on the same subject. He pointed out that there were many boys and girls who had passed the School Final Examination and that they were not given teachers' places in the Education Department. There were several of such qualified Ezhava girls, especially in Mayyanad. The Member prayed that the cases of those girls might be favourably considered by the Government.

The Member next requested that qualified Ezhava applicants, who sought admission to the Police Department, should be given the place of Inspectors in the department.

There were many qualified physicians in the community. Though they applied for grants, they did not generally succeed in getting the same, while several unqualified men succeeded in getting grants for Vydiasalas. The Member prayed that such qualified physicians might be helped with grants for the Vydiasalas started and managed by them.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

157. Disabilities of the Travancore Mahomedans.

Mr. P. M. Ismail Munavery (Member, Nominated) said that the backward condition of the Mahomedans of the State was, no doubt, engaging the serious attention of the Government but the exertions of the Government did not seem to have been fruitful. The educational authorities, however, had not been sparing in their efforts to make education popular among the Mahomedans, as a result of which there were more than 94 in every thousand Moslems educated at present. Nevertheless, the community as a whole had not advanced to any appreciable degree either socially, educationally or politically. It had not been brought home to the Moslem community by way of experiments how education, whether Elementary or Secondary, served as a

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